



District Improvement Team (DIT) Meeting
Thursday, March 5, 2020
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

Meeting start time: 5:08 pm

Meeting end time: 6:01 pm

Member Attendance

Tamesha Bullock, Kristin Craft, Crystal Fain, Molly Ferguson, Charlotte Fisher, Shaundra Jacobs, John Kenna, Meg Maguire, Leslie Marquez, Clifford Nickel, Angelica Oprea, John Pisklak, Holly Saunders

Percent of DIT members in attendance: 32%

Non-Member Attendance

Linda Buchman, Lawanda Coffee, Lance Stallworth, Amy Accardo

Welcome and Introductions

Linda Buchman, Associate Superintendent for Community Relations, welcomed DIT members and presenters. No quorum was present, so Ms. Buchman asked attendees and Dr. Kristin Craft, Associate Superintendent for Academics, for agreement to proceed. Everyone agreed.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Buchman distributed the February 2020 and November 2019 meeting minutes for review. Meg Maguire made a motion to approve both sets of minutes, and Holly Saunders seconded. No one was opposed.

District Update

Ms. Buchman and Dr. Craft shared responsibility for the District Update since Dr. Jennifer Blaine was not in attendance. Ms. Buchman discussed the district's response to coronavirus (Covid-19). Senior staff are monitoring developments at the local, state and national levels daily, and there is now a dedicated "Coronavirus Updates" web page with time-stamped resources. At this time, no decisions have been made around canceling planned spring travel and activities.

Dr. Craft spoke briefly about preparations for an extended school closure for Covid-19, should that become necessary. Academic content leads are reviewing what essential learning looks like for the last 9 weeks of school and working to prepare parent guides and online content to deploy. While the district has resources in place for distance learning, not all families are equipped with technology to take advantage. Plans are being discussed for distribution of wifi hot spots and additional Chromebooks for secondary students.

Ms. Buchman then presented an overview of the fiscal year 2020-21 budget process, describing the Zero-Based Budget model used to build the general budget from ground-up. Senior staff is compiling and measuring all budget requests against Board guidance from December 2019. Public hearings on the final proposed budget will be held in May and June 2020.

ESSA Update

Ms. Lawanda Coffee, Director of External Funds, briefly discussed the budget process for Title (grant) funds. After the general budget is compiled, planning begins for Title I, II, III and IV funds. Per TEA, districts receiving Title I funds must develop an equity plan to ensure students of color and low income students are not taught disproportionately by inexperienced teachers or teachers out of field. This year, TEA also added an academic component to the equity plan, requiring additional review of test scores and benchmarks. Principals are

reviewing that data for gaps and providing feedback to a team from Academics and HR. That team will draft a new equity plan to send to the state for review. After that, decisions will be made around Title II funds, which are earmarked for teacher recruitment/retention and professional development. In April, Ms. Coffee will present specific data, ideas and suggestions from this planning work to the committee.

T-2-4 Update

Dr. Craft introduced Dr. Lance Stallworth, Executive Director for Student Support Services, to present an update on the district's T-2-4 strategy. Dr. Stallworth noted this presentation was developed by Ms. Tyra Walker, Director for Counseling Services, and views T-2-4 "through the lens of the counseling department". It focuses on what counselors, other student services staff and community partners can do to supplement what happens in the classroom and provide robust supports for students on their path to post-secondary readiness.

Strategy summary:

1. **Expose** students to career options at the earliest levels (pre-K and elementary).
2. Help students **explore** various fields and careers that may be of interest (middle school).
3. Offer academic and technical courses where students can **experience** work that may be involved in a chosen field (high school).
4. Once a path is identified, help students **execute** their post-secondary plan via college applications, obtaining technical certifications, taking military entrance exam, etc..

Dr. Stallworth noted that T-2-4 success can be especially challenging for our immigrant population due to barriers such as legal hire ability. The district is working closely with several community partners to develop innovative solutions for these students, especially in the areas of CTE. Additionally, both Northbrook Middle and Landrum Middle will offer a pilot course next year for exploring college and career options.

The district also continues to offer more traditional post-secondary support programs such as an annual College Night, the use of Naviance for college exploration and various community partner programs.

Closing

Ms. Buchman closed the meeting by stating that the presentation titled "HR Talent/Strategy Report" will be postponed until the next meeting since Ms. Karen Heeth, Associate Superintendent for Administration and Talent, was unable to attend. She thanked the committee members and dismissed the meeting at 6:01.